

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 MCE-00 ACDA-12  
AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EUR-12 /090 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:DMCELHANEY:LMG

APPROVED BY AF:RMOOSE

AF/W:TWMSSMITH

-----068651 212356Z /21

R 212005Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LOME

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PGOV, PINS, PPDC, TG

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF INFORMATION CALL ON ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY MOOSE

REF: LOME 2548, 2563

1. TOGOLESE MINISTER OF INFORMATION JOHNSON MET WITH  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE AUGUST 17 TO PRESENT A LETTER  
TO PRESIDENT CARTER FROM PRESIDENT EYADEMA. TEXT OF  
LETTER FOLLOWS BY SEPTEL. LETTER IS EXPECTED THANKS  
FROM EYADEMA TO US FOR WARNING OF THE ABORTED 1977  
MERCENARY ATTACK.

2. JOHNSON REFERRED TO THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER,  
AND THANKED THE US FOR THE TRANSPORT OF TOGOLESE TROOPS  
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TO SHABA PEACEKEEPING FORCE. HE SAID THAT IN SUCH  
CASES WHERE COMMUNISTS ORGANIZE INCURSIONS, TOGO WAS  
READY TO FIGHT. JOHNSON TURNED CONVERSATION TO THE  
TOGOLESE SITUATION, AND EVENTS IN BENIN. UNFORTUNATELY,  
HE SAID, STATES CAN CHOOSE THEIR FRIENDS, BUT NOT THEIR  
NEIGHBORS. TOGO, HE STATED, FEELS ITS LIBERTY IS  
THREATENED BY THE SOVIET SPONSORED MILITARY BUILDUP

IN BENIN, SPEARHEADED BY AN ARMORED FORCE OF SOME 100

TANKS. WITHOUT PEACE, THERE CAN BE NO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN TOGO. TOGODOES NOT WISH TO BE ARMED OFFENSIVELY, BUT ONLY WANTS TO BE CAPABLE OF DETERRING THE ACTIONS OF ITS NEIGHBORS. NOTING NIGERIAN CONCERN AS WELL OVER EVENTS IN BENIN, HE SAID EYADEMA INSTRUCTED HIM TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

3. IN RESPONSE, MOOSE THANKED JOHNSON FOR THE LETTER, AND ASSURED ITS PROMPT DELIVERY TO PRESIDENT CARTER. MOOSE NOTED THE PRESIDENT'S OPPOSITION TO ALL ACTS OF TERRORISM AGAINST ALL NATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, AND US WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN COMBATING SUCH ACTIONS. HE POINTED TO TOGOLESE PARTICIPATION IN THE SHABA PEACEKEEPING FORCE AS A WELCOME MANIFESTATION OF PRESIDENT EYADEMA'S RESOLVE TO OPPOSE ACTS OF INTERFERENCE. REGARDING JOHNSON'S REQUEST FOR PROVISIONS OF ARMS, MOOSE OUTLINED US POLICY ON LIMITING ARMS TRANSFERS AND IN THE AFRICAN CONTEXT, OUR DESIRE TO LIMIT LARGE OR SMALL TRANSFERS OF ARMS TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES. SECURITY THREATS, MOOSE STATED, UNDERSTANDABLY IMPEDE DEVOTING RESOURCES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, BUT THROUGH THE OAU AND THROUGH COOPERATION AMONG WEST AFRICAN STATES, PERCEIVED CHALLENGES TO NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

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COULD BE MORE EFFECTIVELY HANDLED WITHOUT RE COURSE TO COSTLY ARMS PROGRAMS. MOOSE SAID HE HOPED TOGO WOULD SHARE ITS CONCERN WITH OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES IN WEST AFRICA AND CONTINUE TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE U.S. WHEN TOGO IS CONCERNED ABOUT BENIN'S MILITARY ACTIVITIES, AND ADDED THAT U.S. WOULD ONLY CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A STRONG DESIRE TO SUPPORT OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE.

4. JOHNSON ADDED THAT HE WAS ENCOURAGED US WOULD AT LEAST CONSIDER THE QUESTION. FOR HIM, CONSIDERATION OF THE PROBLEM, ITSELF, UNDERLINED THE MERIT OF BROACHING THE SUBJECT. JOHNSON THEN MADE BRIEF COURTESY CALLS ON FORMER AMBASSADORS TO TOGO PALMER AND RAWLS.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MINISTERIAL VISITS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE211914  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** DMCELHANEY:LMG  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780341-1282  
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**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MINISTER OF INFORMATION CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE  
**TAGS:** OVIP, PGOV, PINS, PPDC, TO, (EYADEMA, GNASSINGBE), (CARTER, JIMMY), (JOHNSON, KWAOVI BENYI)  
**To:** LOME  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014